

Appeals Pending On Charter Suit

The court action concerning integration and charging of tuition at Rice is now pending before the State Civil Court of Appeals.

The suit, instigated by the Board of Trustees, was decided in favor of Rice by a lower court last February. The case is now being briefed for appeal and will probably be tried later in the year.

However, Rice is operating on a court order by Judge William M. Holland which permits it to charge tuition and admit Negroes into the Class of 1969.

Opposition to the position of the Board of Trustees is present in two former Rice students, Mr. Val T. Billups and Mr. John B. Coffee, who are appealing the February decision to the higher state courts. They have about two weeks to submit a brief on the suit to the Civil Court of Appeals.

In the event of a decision favorable to Rice by this court, the intervenors against the suit could file an appeal with the Texas Supreme Court, the highest state court. The suit could conceivably get into the federal courts on the question of integration, but not on the tuition question.